

Remarks

Applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

I. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 56, 57, 66 and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pope et al. (United States Patent No. 5,645,601). Applicants have amended the claims, rendering the § 102 rejection moot. However, Applicants dispute and traverse the § 102 rejection and will address it in remarks in a continuation application. Applicants have amended independent claim 56 to include the limitation of allowable claim 64, from which claims 57, 66 and 67 depend, rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29-30, 32-36, 39-55 and 58-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pope et al. (United States Patent No. 5,645,601) in view of Turchan et al. (United States Patent No. 5,554,415). Applicants have amended the claims, rendering the § 103 rejection moot. However, Applicants dispute and traverse the § 103 rejection and will address it in remarks in a continuation application.

Applicants have amended independent claim 29 to include the limitations of dependent claim 30, which should be allowable for the same reason as allowable claim 31. Applicants have cancelled claim 30. Claims 32-33 and 35-56 have been amended to depend on allowable claim 31. Claims 34 continues to depend upon allowable claim 31. Claims 39-45, 47-53, and 55 have been amended to depend upon allowable claim 38. Claim 46 continues to depend upon claim 45 and claim 54 continues to depend upon claim 53, where claims 45 and 53 are currently amended.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claim amendments to reflect dependency on allowable claims, render the Examiner's rejection moot.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-28.

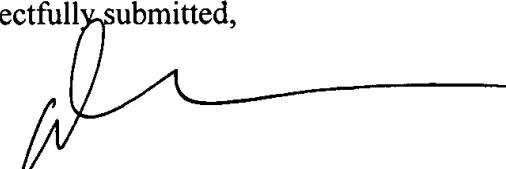
Claims 31, 37, 38, 64 and 65 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 31, 37, 38, 64 and 65 pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion. Claim 30 has been cancelled. Claims 34 continues to depend upon allowable claim 31. Claim 46 continues to depend upon claim 45 and claim 54 continues to depend upon claim 53, where claims 45 and 53 have been currently amended. Applicants have further amended all remaining pending to claims to depend upon or include limitations of the above listed allowable claims in a sincere effort to put them in condition for allowance. The claim amendments include the following: claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 30 which should be allowable for the same reason as allowable claim 31; claims 32-33 and 35-56 have been amended to depend upon allowable claim 31; claims 39-45, 47-53, and 55 have been amended to depend upon allowable claim 38; and claim 56 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 64. Presently, all pending claims include the limitations of claims that the Examiner indicated as allowable.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, Applicants believe that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office Action have been addressed in a sincere effort to advance prosecution of this Application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. Please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0581 for any additional fees.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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